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*A Century of Empire.* Volume III. 1867–1900. By HERBERT MAXWELL. (New York: 1911. Pp. xv, 367.)

The two earlier volumes of this interesting work have already been reviewed in this magazine and the concluding portion of the history is now before us. We know what to expect from the author; vigor and rapidity of narration, a lucid style, a full acceptance of the Conservative point of view, and we find all these in the volume under consideration. His culture still appears in the Latin proverbs (not always correctly printed) and the poetical quotations which appear in his pages and his frank, brief characterizations of men are as crisp as ever. Sometimes, he becomes epigrammatic, as, when he tells us on pages 209, that the "British electorate invariably reserves its gratitude for favours to come." His transition from one topic to another is sometimes rather forced, his proportion of space is different from what would be given by an American, his distaste for economic statistics lead him sometimes, as on page 242, to print a table of figures, which seem included, because he felt that he must furnish some and had no heart to work them into the text. On the other hand, he is scrupulously fair in stating the position of his opponents and his summaries of parliamentary proceedings are admirably done. There is a personal touch on many pages. Sir Herbert Maxwell could say *pars fui* of a portion of the history of the last portion of the nineteenth century in England and, at times, the narrative becomes almost autobiographical. His estimates of persons, such as of Lord Randolph Churchill on page 223, or of Queen Victoria at the end of the volume, are striking and forceful. The footnotes must not be forgotten, with their pungent comments on men and events. These same footnotes, by the way, show how frequently Great Britain rewards her soldiers and statesmen in a way impossible to Republican governments; for, again and again, we read of some one that he was later raised to the peerage under a title which is told us. A detailed account of the Boer war, which the author calls a "great war," emphasises the importance to Great Britain of that struggle, in which Lord "Roberts was in command of the largest all British force ever assembled in a single command." (page 332). The chief interest of students in political science will be found, however, in his discussion of such topics as the two Parliamentary reform bills of the period, in his whole-hearted antipathy to "Home-rule," in his unstinted blame of the Unionists for not providing for a redistribution of seats in the House of Commons and for a reform

of the House of Lords during the last long supremacy of that party, and in his clear and succinct description of the foreign relations of England.

B. C. STEINER.

*The Special Law Governing Public Service Corporations.* By: BRUCE WYMAN. (New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co., 1911. Two volumes: Pp. ccxvii, 1517.)

Perhaps no recent publication has been more timely and more needed than this valuable treatise upon the law of public service corporations. Though based upon the established principles of the common law, its application to modern conditions, the growing number of callings that are recognized as public in their nature, and the increasing complexity of the problems presented makes this one of the most important branches of our law. The author declares that "it is hardly too much to say that the efficient regulation of the public employments by sufficient laws is the most pressing problem confronting the nation," (p. vii) and urges the bar to see that the problems are intelligently and ably met in order to avert the alternative policy of public ownership. The fact that such complicated duties have so suddenly fallen upon the profession, whose training has not prepared them for it, affords the reason for the publication of the work. The courts are commended for approaching the question with a broad and enlightened policy.

The author opens his treatise with a historical introduction, beginning with the mediaeval policies of regulation. Attention is given to the influence of the laissez faire philosophy upon the development of the law in the last century. Especially noteworthy is the claim for the unity of this branch of the law. "But at the present it is just being appreciated that rapid progress may be made by the general recognition of the unity of the public service law, whereby cases as to one calling may be used to show the law in all." (p. 33). That all the varied rules of this branch of the law are based upon the fundamental principles of the common law is clearly shown, which is especially important from the viewpoint of the constitutional validity of legislative control. The Introduction is a splendid preparation for the study of the treatise.

The treatise is divided into four books, the first being entitled Estab-